

# **COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY SURVEY PROJECT HANSON, MASSACHUSETTS**

## **Summary Report**

**31 July 1996**

**Claire W. Dempsey and Laura B. Driemeyer**

In the spring of 1995, the Hanson Historical Commission received a matching grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission to prepare a comprehensive inventory of the town's historic resources as part of an ongoing program of preservation planning. To accomplish this important task the Commission had available \$9,230; an additional \$770 was contributed in volunteer time, about 180 hours of administration and research work. The following fall, after a competitive search, Claire W. Dempsey and Laura B. Driemeyer were retained to complete this survey of historic resources.

This survey emphasized field research and historical documentation for anticipated final products covering approximately 160 historic properties, using MHC inventory forms with black and white photographs. These include both individual forms for buildings, structures, parks, burying grounds, and objects, and area forms describing clusters of resources. The scope of work provided with the Request for Proposals presented the general outline of the work to be accomplished, specified the products required from that work, determined the broad time limits of work scheduling, and established the sequence of phase meetings between the consultants, the Hanson Historical Commission, and the Massachusetts Historical Commission staff. This methodology described the consultants' approach to the project, divided into eight tasks described below, keyed to the four phases of the project scope and to a schedule for each phase. In addition to addressing elements of the scope, this methodology offered suggestions for volunteer activities by members of the Hanson Historical Commission. The aim of the methodology was to assure that the completion of this comprehensive inventory accurately reflects the surviving resources and significant themes in Hanson history, built on previous research, and provided opportunities and suggestions for future research.

### **PHASE ONE**

Phase One of the Scope of Work included the tasks preparation and location. During preparation, available maps and historic sources for the town were reviewed and a

methodology for the project was outlined. Next many of the historic properties in the town were located. Phase One was completed 24 November 1995.

### **Preparation:**

Research for the survey began with a review of the existing material describing the history and landscape of Hanson. Existing inventory forms prepared by the Hanson Historical Commission, including four incomplete forms, were reviewed at this time to assess their quality in anticipation of planning for future volunteer activities. Review of the existing secondary sources on the town were reviewed for their ability to provide the basis for the preparation of the narrative history during later phases of the project. Chief among these were county histories and the volumes *History of Houses in Hanson* written by Joseph B. White in 1933 and the more recent *Pictorial History of the Town of Hanson*, volumes one and two prepared by the Hanson Historical Society in 1962 and 1964. Later in the project the consultants came across the typescript volume "History of Hanson," prepared by a committee for the town in 1962, and after several unsuccessful attempts located a copy for their use late in phase three. Regional histories also were located, with particular attention paid to the cranberry industry presented in the volume *Cranberry Harvest*. Town Historian Ray Towne generously provided research to the consultants on a range of subjects. The consultants located copies of key historic maps covering Hanson, including the Smith map of 1830, the Walling map of 1856, the Richards map of 1879, and a map of 1903; the South Hanson Depot area was also covered in a Sanborn Fire Insurance map for 1939, updated to 1951, of the Town of Whitman.

An appropriate base map for use during this project proved elusive. No current map was available in a useful size showing either property boundaries or building footprints. The consultants finally selected the most recent U.S.G.S. quadrangles, dated 1977 and 1978; the consultants have found these maps to be occasionally inaccurate and often out-of-date and recommend that the MHC review their regular use in survey projects. The Hanson Historical Commission provided a copy of the town-assessors map which was useful for confidently locating properties, establishing their boundaries, and for creating maps for inventory forms.

### **Location:**

The initial survey of the community was of particular importance because it formed the basis for decisions on property selection and subsequent levels of documentation. Although Hanson does not have an existing inventory, a group of sources were available to help locate historical resources. The most comprehensive of these is White's *History of Houses in Hanson*, where brief histories and descriptions of historic sites and buildings are linked to a series of eight maps of the town. Practical problems arose, however, in the use of these maps and summaries. The scale of the maps and alterations to the landscape in the intervening sixty years made difficult the determination of correspondence between noted properties and specific locations and surviving properties. Consultation with members of the historical

commission on this source promised much but yielded little during this project. Two lists of historic resources in the town were also made available to the consultants, including a list of thirty-five (35) sites provided by the Hanson Historical Commission, and a list of about seventy sites (70) on file at the Massachusetts Historical Commission. Copies of each of these were submitted at the end of Phase One.

The first step in the location effort, "windshield survey," involved field examination of the areas to locate the historic resources, i.e. all buildings over 50 years old within the community. Ms. Dempsey and Ms. Driemeyer drove the streets and roads of Hanson, including about fifteen square miles of territory. They briefly examined properties already surveyed, as well as located other properties appropriate for inclusion in the survey. Using the maps described above and visual inspection of the buildings in the field, they began a list of historic properties in the town and to photograph those likely to be included in the survey. This list was entered into a database, which the consultants have used during recent survey efforts and found useful for keeping track of large amounts of data. Based on this experience, the database included the following fields: name, address, type, style, date, and area, and it was used to create district data sheets and address lists.

## **PHASE TWO**

Phase Two of the scope of work included the tasks description and selection. Description began with the preparation of a tentative building typology. The selection criteria were then applied to the properties on the historic properties list, creating a list of properties to be included in the survey. Additional research, an outline for the narrative history, and sample inventory forms were also prepared. Phase Two was completed 19 February 1996.

### **Description: Building Typology:**

To facilitate identification on the historic properties list, and to organize subsequent presentations of the town's architecture, the next step was to create a typology relevant to the town's residential architecture. Residential architecture is by far the most numerous of the resource categories and the typology provides a system for organizing these numerous resources by shape and plan. It serves as a complement to the more traditional system of organizing building descriptions by architectural style. Using the field list, the consultants established a tentative group of types and determined which selected properties fall into which type designation, then prepared a descriptive list of the designated types. A copy of this was submitted at the end of Phase Two. It included the selected names and descriptions of the house types that cover the majority of the town's residential fabric. Thus the resources were categorized by two over-arching descriptive systems, that of style focusing primarily on ornament, and of type focusing on form. The properties identified during phase one were sorted so that examples of each type to be surveyed can be specifically identified. The

preparation of this typology contributed a significant part of the outline of the narrative required during this phase, becoming part of the historic narrative during Phase Three.

### **Selection:**

Once the historic properties list was prepared the consultants selected resources to recommend to the Hanson Historical Commission for focused attention and further research. The Hanson Historical Commission provided a list of high priority properties for the consideration of the consultants; most of these properties have been selected by them. The consultants were forced to eliminate one of the historic sites, a 19th century hall, and Native American sites. Three other properties appeared to the consultants to have been too altered for consideration at this time, including the ski shop, the Dunham estate, and Clark's store.

The highest priority was given to clustered resources, keyed to the important themes identified for the history of Hanson, and includes clusters of related resources. Both MHC policy to apply a geographic approach to resources and the emerging "landscape" approach to historic resources argue for the consideration of groups of properties. The consultants therefore included clusters of well-preserved residences, in five area forms, a county hospital complex, as well as three areas related to the town's industrial history. For these resources, an area form with a detailed district data sheet provided an overview and related the individual properties to one another. In addition to these priority areas the consultants selected twelve (12) town public buildings, a cemetery, a key mill site, and twenty-three well-preserved residences for representation as set forth in MHC survey methodology.

Although the consultants have recommended areas and individual properties amounting to over one-hundred-sixty (160) properties, many others remain in the town, including a significant number with important historical associations and that retain considerable integrity. The Town of Hanson has an unusually high survival rate for residences. In addition, the town's distinctive settlement pattern appears to have contributed to buildings' survival but also to have made survey somewhat more challenging. A middle landscape between village and farm characterizes much of Hanson, consisting of a more uniform distribution of dwellings across the landscape on moderate-sized lots. While this meant the construction and survival of a large number of dwellings across the town, it has made it more difficult to economically cluster them together for survey purposes.

### **Volunteer Activities:**

As soon as the list was confirmed and the proportion of time to be dedicated to administrative tasks was determined, volunteer activities began. Particular research tasks were identified to meet the individual skills of the volunteers. The bulk of this work involved documentary research in the town's tax assessor's records. Focusing on the areas selected for consideration, the project was designed to locate property descriptions for property owners

identified on the town's two later historic maps, of 1879 and 1903. The consultants and the volunteers made cards for each property owner listed for an area. Town volunteers then located these individuals in the tax assessment for the year closest to the year of the map and transcribed the description of their property to the appropriate card. Volunteered research on Native Americans, the cranberry industry, and assistance in using White's *History of Houses* was not completed in time for use in this project.

### **PHASE THREE**

Phase Three of the scope of work included the bulk of the work for the project including description, documentation, and evaluation. At this time, more detailed descriptions were prepared for the individual properties, intensive documentary historical research took place, and the properties were evaluated through the preparation of the town's narrative history and the application of the National Register criteria. In addition to completing the below identified tasks, Ms. Dempsey and Ms. Driemeyer monitored and reviewed volunteer activities; the last submission to the consultants took place 23 July 1996. Phase Three work by the consultants was completed 1 July 1996.

#### **Description:**

During Phase Three the consultants returned to the selected sites in the field to record more detailed descriptions of the properties under consideration. To assist in this effort the consultants used a field form for each historic property, assuring consistent recording of important features and decorative details, as well as notes on the applicability of the tentative typology. These forms provided the basis for the completion of the majority of the MHC inventory forms, including the basic descriptive material focused on the front of the form and the architectural description on the rear. Additional photographs were taken as necessary of buildings and/or structures, outbuildings, and significant architectural and landscape features.

#### **Documentation:**

During Phase Three the consultants conducted site-specific historical research. Research into primary and secondary historical documents provided important confirmations about assessments of dates and alterations made in the field, as well as supporting information about the history of the property. As is usual during survey projects, this task relied on existing research on particularly well-known buildings, families, and organizations in the town, carefully checked against a selection of primary sources. Most basic of these sources were the historic maps, complemented by research in the tax assessors records by the consultants and volunteers. These same sources provided the beginning for research on previously unknown properties as well. This research, together with material provided in Hanson town histories, provided the essential information for the historical narrative section of the inventory forms, as well as for the narrative history of Hanson.

## **Evaluation:**

The preparation of the narrative history for Hanson established the context within which to evaluate the resources located and researched during other tasks and phases. Here, the relationship of the resources to one another, and to themes, events, and persons important to the town's past was established and explored. Here too the themes and resources of the town were placed within the regional development of Plymouth County and Massachusetts. Information on the whole town, gathered in Phase One, on the types of resources in the town, established in Phase Two, and on individual buildings and areas within the town, researched in Phase Three, all contributed to the preparation of a narrative of Hanson's history examined through its landscape and architecture.

Within this historic context the consultant identified properties believed to be eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. For each property, a determination was made about its physical integrity, general period of significance, and the applicability of the four NR criteria: association with broad patterns of our history, lives of significant persons, embodying distinctive architectural characteristics, or likely to yield important information. Because of the selection process used in Hanson, an exceptionally large proportion of the properties included in the survey are likely to be eligible to the National Register. The town includes an exceptionally high number of historic properties for its size, so that only the best examples were included in this survey. Many of the NR Criteria Statement forms submitted with inventory forms for individual properties recommend that neighboring properties be examined more closely so that more efficient and economical district nominations may be substituted where appropriate. Those properties indicated in bold are those recommended for earliest consideration.

### **Districts:**

**United Cape Cod Cranberry Company Central Packing House area.**

Bonney Hill District, High Street including Plymouth County Hospital.

**North Hanson Area.**

Burrage Area, including industrial complex and residences.

Bryantville, East Main Street Area.

South Hanson, Main Street Area.

State Street Area.

### **Individual Buildings, Public:**

School House, 195 East Washington Street

First Congregational Church, 641 High Street

**Cushing/Alms House, 784 Indian Head Street**

Indian Head School, 726 Indian Head Street

**Hanson Town Hall, 542 Indian Head Street**

First Baptist Church, 214 Main Street  
L.Z. Thomas School, 533 Main Street  
School House #4, 565 Main Street  
South Grammar School/Grange Hall, 782 Main Street  
**Wampatuck Hall, 1131 Main Street**  
Saint Joseph the Worker Roman Catholic Church, 25 Maquan Street  
Fern Hill Cemetery, High Street  
South Hanson Railroad Depot, 1120 Main Street

**Residences:**

37 Brook Street  
155 Brook Street  
**510 Brook Street**  
63 East Washington Street  
**89 East Washington Street**  
610 East Washington Street  
503 Elm Street  
0 High Street  
**541 High Street**  
909 High Street  
131 Holmes Street  
324 Holmes Street  
232 King Street  
**305 King Street**  
617 Main Street  
1036 Main Street  
**149 Maquan Street**  
77 Pleasant Street  
321 State Street  
395 State Street  
**517 West Washington Street**  
**316 West Washington Street**  
971 Whitman Street

**PHASE FOUR**

During Phase Four the final version of each of the products was determined and completed. Phase Four was completed on 31 July 1996.

**Presentation:**

The consultants determined the final format for the products of this survey project, including the summary report, the narrative history, inventory forms, area forms, lists, and maps. The inventory forms were corrected and the numbering system applied to them; they were then entered into a final street-indexed historic comprehensive inventory list. Comments on the narrative history were incorporated by the consultant and inventory form numbers added to property references within it. The list of historic resources and maps was corrected and updated with inventory numbers for submission and future use. In addition to the copy of the inventory retained by the Hanson Historical Commission, a copy will be placed on deposit at the Hanson Public library for use by town citizens.

**Further Recommendations:**

The survey undertaken in 1995 and 1996 has gone a long way toward improving the town of Hanson's record of its historic resources. With this comprehensive survey completed, the Commission can continue to pursue other preservation planning activities outlined in the MHC's handbook for local commissions. Certainly chief among these will be the selection of especially important properties for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and working closely with town boards and commissions to be sure that historic resources are considered as the town plans for its future.

In addition to these more general recommendations, the consultants can suggest several items for the Commission's consideration that relate particularly to the identification and documentation of its historic resources. The research begun by Commission members on the area's Native American landscapes and on its agricultural landscape, with particular emphasis on cranberries, should continue. White's *History of Hanson Houses* would be much more useful if linked to current maps and/or addresses. And finally, while it is not required, more survey could certainly be completed here in Hanson, where historic resources are particularly numerous. Many of the best examples and areas have been nominated but many more survive in town, worthy of consideration.



**"Little Comfort"**  
**Hanson Narrative History**  
**Claire W. Dempsey and Laura B. Driemeyer**

**31 July 1996**

**Tunk: Wampatuck's Land, an Introduction**

Hanson is a small suburban town in the north-central section of Plymouth County in southeastern Massachusetts. Located at a distance from the area's major cities and its most traveled roadways and railroads, Hanson has remained a small community. The town's population stayed under a thousand during the 18th and early 19th century, and well under two thousand well into the 20th century. While the town has several small villages, the historic settlement pattern surrounding them includes some traditional farms but a far larger proportion is a middle landscape of small and moderate sized homes on small and moderate sized lots. During the town's early years as West Parish, Pembroke, its citizens cleared land for agricultural purposes, with particularly rich marsh resources for cedar and bog iron. A significant number of houses survive from this period, including primarily traditional capes, and smaller numbers of center chimney houses and more ambitious double and ell houses in the Federal style. Early in the 19th century the town developed a small-scaled industrial base, emphasizing iron and tack production in factories and shoe-making as a home industry. The population expansion a community maturity achieved at mid-century can be seen across the landscape in the town's numerous gable blocks and end houses, constructed in the Greek Revival and Italianate styles. The growth of poultry raising and increased cranberry growing and processing meant continued although slow growth late in the 19th century and early in the 20th. Continued construction of small homes, now in the Queen Anne, Craftsmen, and Colonial Revival styles, on moderate sized lots helped to create the town's distinctive landscape. Punctuated by scattered public buildings and a handful of industrial complexes, Hanson has a rich historic landscape to document and preserve.

Although located at a distance from the coast, Hanson's topography is quite low and flat. Most of the town lies well below 100 feet in elevation and hills in the town include Bonney Hill at High Street, with a bench mark of 153 feet, and hills of similar height in the northwest and southwest parts of the town. The town lies at the headwaters of two of the region's primary drainage systems, the North River system, with waters flowing to the east from the northern and eastern sections of the town, and the Taunton River System, with waters flowing to the south in the western portions of the town. The town's primary waterways include Drinkwater Brook and Indian Head River running across the town's northern border, Rocky Run Brook in the northeast corner, Indian Head Brook in the north central section of the town, and Poor Meadow Brook in the southwest corner of the town. Much of the town is low and wet, particularly in the Great Cedar Swamp area from Main Street south to the town's border, and at Little Cedar Swamp to

the west of Winter Street. The town has numerous ponds, including Wampatuck and Maquan south of Maquan Street in the center and east of the town, and Indian Head Pond to the south of these and north of Main and east of Indian Head Street. On the town borders, still more ponds are located, to the north on the Hanover line, to the east on the Pembroke line, and to the south on the Halifax line.

The area which is now Hanson has much evidence of Native settlement with sites dating to a range of periods known within the town. Just as the town sits on the edges of two river systems, so too it sits at the border of two of the region's Native American groups. The territory of the Wampanoag was located primarily to the south, while the southernmost edges of the Massachusetts territory were just to the north. The area is believed to have been part of a settlement area along the coast focused north from Plymouth harbor and along the North River. Nearby in Pembroke the ponds were a contact period settlement area known as Mattakeeset, while to the west in East Bridgewater, Satuckett was located on Robin's Pond. Across Hanson, connecting these settlements, ran the Crossway or Tunk, a route which ran through the town. The series of ponds within Hanson, Wampatuck, Maquan, Indian Head, and Monponsett, offered good sites for planting and fishing.

The Hanson area was bordered by Plymouth (1620) to the south, Scituate (1633) and Marshfield (1640) to the north, and by private grants and Bridgewater (1656) to the west. Land in this area was first purchased from Native Americans in 1646, in a sale of the Satucket or Bridgewater area from the Wampanoag sachem Massasoit. Consistent with the area's location along a territorial border was the later, confirming purchase of the same territory from the Massachusetts sachem Chickataubut. Although the town was included in part of this large grant for the town of Duxbury, it is believed that this area served as fields rather than house lots. In 1662 followed another large purchase, from the Massachusetts sachem Wampatuck, the son of Chickataubut, to Major Josiah Winslow. A portion of the land, one thousand acres in the northeast, was reserved for area Native Americans. Although the Major's Purchase of 1662 is believed to have been divided into large lots, their size, number, and configuration are not known. In 1668 a triangle of land between these two grants was designated to Bridgewater. Settlement apparently did not occur until after King Philip's War in 1675, when farmers took up outlying holdings.

By 1712 settlement in the western section of Duxbury was dense and numerous enough to warrant the establishment of a second town, Pembroke, including the area which is now Hanson. Although Pembroke was at first slow to establish schools, and tended to serve its central sections more generously than its outlying areas, the section which became Hanson was served by a rotating schoolmaster throughout this period. During the next decade several neighboring towns were incorporated, attesting to growth in this interior area, including Abington (1712) and Hanover (1727) to the north and Halifax (1734) to the south.

Mills were established on Indian Head Brook and River, including grist and saw mills, and later an iron forge. The **Thomas Mill Site** has traditionally been identified as the oldest mill privilege in the Hanson area. The mill was located on the east side of the river to the north of the dam which forms the large body of water now known as Wampatuck Pond but known historically as the Mill Pond. The first owner of land in this area was Colonel Nathaniel Thomas, who received 250 acres here in 1680, probably as a proprietor of the Major's Purchase which brought this section of Plymouth Colony into English control. In 1694 he received another 250 acres, probably in a purchase from area Native Americans, and was given permission to dam a section of the brook; in the process the upstream pond was formed. A second early mill privilege is located on the Indian Head River and was long associated with iron working, beginning in 1720 with the establishment here of a forge on two acres of land belonging to Joseph Barstow and Benjamin Stetson. A bridge across the Indian Head River has been located here since that time. See **State Street area B**.

A small number of houses are said to survive from this period, but the number of settler families is unlikely to have exceeded fifty. Although single room houses were common in other regions during much of the pre-industrial period, most early New England houses had at least two rooms. Constructed in the timber framing or post and beam system, individual square boxes were constructed of posts and beams, sized to reflect their function in the plan, and then linked to one another to form a variety of house plans. The forms common for these small dwellings include: a single room with the addition of a rear or lateral lean-to, two rooms arranged front to back, or two rooms arranged side-by-side. In New England, chimneys with one or more fireplaces commonly formed the core of the building and entries are often located in front of the chimney bay, in a small lobby. Usually square or rectangular buildings, these were most commonly of a single story and gable roofs predominated. Said to date to 1699, the **King-Stetson House at 305 King Street (# 28)** is currently quite plain in ornament and bears some exterior characteristics suggestive of a later date, including its deep footprint; the building now has a rear ell and carriage house. Among the earliest of surviving two-story houses in Hanson must be the **Cushing House at 89 East Washington Street (# 26)**, believed to have been built in about 1730. The ample house is now a two-story, center chimney house, augmented by a very deep rear ell and its entry is presently shielded by one of the town's distinctive porches, partially enclosed with Tuscan columns. Not surprisingly, most surviving houses of this early type are embedded within houses which were later expanded, and can only be identified after careful examination of building fabric and further historical research has been completed.

## **West Precinct, Pembroke: An Agricultural Community, 1746 to 1820.**

In just over thirty years the process of community-formation repeated itself with the establishment of the West Precinct here in 1746. As settlers established themselves in this area, the distance from the meeting houses of their parent towns became burdensome. They had already constructed a meetinghouse for themselves, a building which secondary-source descriptions suggest followed New England's common pattern: rectangular in shape and two stories in height with an entry porch on the long side. The interior included pews sold to the highest bidder, square in shape and ornamented with spindles. In their petition to the General Court they noted its location "in the center of the territory," still occupied by its successor Congregational Church on High Street. They believed that there were sufficient inhabitants to "maintain the Gospel among them," and further noted that their parent towns had sufficient numbers to allow for their separation. Most settlers were associated with Pembroke to the east, but the triangular section of Bridgewater to the west, and small sections of Abington, Halifax, and Hanover were pulled into the new parish. In response to the petition, the General Court established this precinct, "vested with all such powers and privileges as Precincts by law enjoy; and that Elijah Cushing, one of the principal inhabitants in said Place is hereby empowered to call the first Precinct or Parish meeting."

Within the first decade, problems arose associated with the precinct's composition from "the Corners of Five Towns." They were "remote from the Centers of sd Towns" and were "put to great Difficulty to Attend the Town Meetings in their several Towns when they accidentally hear of them." In addition, "they are obliged to pay to the support of the Grammar School but can receive no Benefit there-from, and so are obliged to Provide themselves a School Master or have none." In response to this petition, the land and inhabitants of the other four towns were annexed to Pembroke to consolidate the focus of services for the West Precinct.

With the establishment of a meetinghouse, the pace of colonial development increased. Presumably clearing the land and making fields dominated the energies of farm families. The Great Cedar Swamp was both a barrier and a resource for the town, providing a specific useful product for sale. The presence of bog iron, here and throughout Plymouth and Bristol counties, influence the local economy, particularly with the early 19th century establishment of nail and tack factories. J. Smith's 1830 map of the town notes in reference to Indian Head Pond: "Iron Ore of excellent quality was formerly taken from this pond." Barstow's sons operated the mill on Indian Head River at **State Street (area A)**, and it was sold in 1795 to Robert Salmon of Pembroke and Nathaniel Cushing, who were producing anchors in 1813. A small spinning mill, established in 1814 on Factory Pond, provided employment and sent yarns out to the farms for homework.

The town grew slowly in size during its period as a precinct, but remained a small community with a low density of occupation. Population figures are not available as long

as the area remained as a precinct, but at the time of incorporation in 1820, 917 individuals were reported in Hanson. With establishment as a precinct, the number of schools increased, but only to two, one near the meetinghouse and another to the south on Main Street. By 1797, the growth of the population is the likely reason behind the decision to expand the meetinghouse. The building is said to have been cut in half and a new section of fourteen feet added in the center. The town was fortunate to have had two early ministers of long standing, Rev. Gad Hitchcock from 1748 until his death in 1803, and his successor Rev. George Barstow until his death in 1826. During this period, the area follows the period pattern of increasing the number and diversity of its religious institutions with the establishment of a Baptist Church in 1811. The lay preacher Thomas Conant was the nucleus of the group, and after meeting in homes for some time, a society was formed the same year and a small meetinghouse built in Bryantville the next.

The **Fern Hill Cemetery, High Street (#800)** has been Hanson's primary burying ground since the area was settled and its first burials date to the area's designation as West Parish, Pembroke. The Thomas family owned the land and they and the Cushing family began to bury family members on the high ridges overlooking Wampatuck Pond. The earliest stone memorializes a child of the Cushing family who died in 1745. In 1804, Nathaniel Thomas sold a two-acre parcel surrounding these graves to the parish for a burying ground. The first hearse house was located near the front of that original yard in 1811. The oldest section of the yard is the highest section in the rear, where large early stones run along the ridge there; both slate and marble stones are located there. A number of small family burying grounds are found throughout the town, including the Thomas Tombs on Main Street, near Bryantville, the Monroe Burying Ground need location, the Stetson Burying Ground on Mon ponsett Street, the Howland Burying Ground on Indian Head Street, and the Hobart Burying Ground at Main and Franklin streets. .

As the 18th century progressed, the stability and age of the community meant larger numbers of more ample and durable houses were constructed. Some builders continued to employ the smaller housetypes through the 18th century. The small **Cole House at 617 Main Street (#16)** may be an example of the rare two-room house type; its owners suggest a date at the middle of the 18th century. Low and narrow in the front pile, the house has a rear ell and a small wing, and a closer examination of its interior would be required to clarify its age and changing form. A gambrel-roofed hall-and-parlor house seems to be the oldest main block of the **Hobart House**, built by 1830, at **155 Brook Street (#33)**. The house is distinctive for several of its features: it appears to be a single pile house, unusual as a final surviving form in Hanson or elsewhere in Massachusetts; it employs a gambrel roof; and it extends to seven bays across its facade.

Among middling householders, houses of three, four, or five rooms per floor became more common in Massachusetts communities in their second and third generation

of settlement. Continuing to dominate planning was the central chimney heat source and the most common types shared the tendency to cluster rooms around a single stack of heat sources. As a second tier of rear rooms became more common a second pile was eventually constructed within a symmetrical gable end. In the most common of the center chimney plans the front pile or tier of rooms is characterized by an entry into a lobby in the chimney bay, with a room on either side. In the rear a large central room was flanked by smaller unheated rooms. Houses of a single story and garret were the most common, known as Cape Cod houses and a significant number of these houses have been identified in Hanson. Among the earliest examples is the **Hamlin House**, said to date to the 1750s, at **131 Holmes Street (#21)**. Currently shingled and expanded with a deep rear ell, the house seems to have been more modestly lit than later examples, with fewer openings on its side elevations. Said to date to the end of the 18th century, the **Phillips-Keene House** at **1036 Main Street (#19)** has also been generously expanded to the rear. The **Hathaway-Munroe House**, one of only a handful ever located in the south of town near the Great Cedar Swamp at **503 Elm Street (#18)**, is a well-preserved shingled example said to date to about 1800 and exhibiting many typical features including small windows in the corners of the gable ends, a simple entablature door treatment, and additions to the central mass including a shed-roofed wing and a low rear ell, the latter connecting it to its side-gabled carriage house. The **Keene House**, said to date to 1821 at **0 High Street (#15)**, is a well-preserved shingled example, with a transomed entablature doorway, small windows in the corners of its gable ends, and a low rear ell. An unusual but related house is the gambrel-roofed **Thomas House**, said to have been built in the 1770s, at **541 High Street (#14)**. With its exceptionally deep footprint and high, well-lit garret, the house would have provided ample living space.

This numerous house type can be found in the residential and institutional areas of the town as well. In **North Hanson area (A)**, the **Cox House** is the best preserved example at **248 Spring Street (#57)**, and others include the **Ramsdell House** at **152 Spring Street (#47)** and the **Elms House** at **212 Spring Street (#52)**. The earliest surviving in the **State Street area (B)** is the **Bates House** at **684 State Street**, a cape with an array of later 19th century alterations including dormers, bay windows, and a rear ell. On **Bonney Hill (area C)**, the best preserved example is the house at **249 High Street (#85)**, while other area examples include the **Simon-Tubbs House** at **334 (#91)**, with one of Hanson's distinctive semi-enclosed Tuscan entries, and the **Gould-Thomas House** at **457 High Street (#100)**. At **Plymouth County Hospital (area D)**, the **Bonney House** at **252 High Street (#103)** is a cape with multiple additional massing elements including large front gabled dormers, a shed dormer at the rear, and an elongated one-story gabled rear ell.

Large two-story houses of central chimney form are named for that dominant feature, the center chimney house. During the 18th and early 19th century of their popularity, they were constructed primarily in the five-bay, center-entry variation. A

second **Cushing House** of about thirty years later survives at **784 Indian Head Road (#10)**. This shingled building has a small rear ell and simple ornament of the Federal period and, perhaps associated with its role within the Gordon Rest Home, the property also includes an early 20th century gambrel-roofed and concrete-block barn. The **Gad Hitchcock House** at **909 High Street (#13)** now takes this ample form, but appears to have reached it after several stages of expansion. Its interiors are exceptional survivals of Georgian paneled wall treatments. Buildings in the **North Hanson area (A)** of this type include the **Soper Houses** at **55 and 117 Spring Street (#s 40 and 45)**. These ample houses were built by two brothers, the second designed to be bigger and better than its neighbor. Each has rich cornice moldings and the second and larger one (117) adds more ornament, particularly coins on its corners and its typical semi-enclosed Tuscan porch. The **Beal House** nearby at **517 West Washington Street (#22)** may be a single-pile, center-chimney main block with smaller additions forming its rear pile and is distinctive for its use of a hip-roof with this form. The house employs a plain Doric entablature door and is surrounded by a number of agricultural buildings, formerly associated with a neighboring property, including a New England barn.

The colonial house type most often discussed in the literature is the Georgian, the choice of the wealthiest builders in the late 18th and early 19th century. These large houses were known then as double houses. Here again the overall rectangular block under a gable roof parallel to the road remained the massing principle. The hallmark of this type is the plan of a double pile of rooms opening off a central through passage, made possible in New England through the substitution of paired chimneys for the single stack. The **Cushing House** at **316 West Washington Street (# 23)** is an early surviving example of the double house type and dating to about 1785. Currently vacant, the house has a probably Colonial Revival Tuscan porch and a rear ell connecting it to its long barn. The **Smith House** at **149 Maquan Street (# 35)** is another Federal double house, in this case taking the end-chimney form variation, employing an altered entry treatment incorporating a fan over the entry, and retaining a large New England barn at the end of a long rear ell. In New England generally, builders also designed houses that appeared on the facade to take the double house form, but reduced the total size through manipulation of the arrangement of the rear pile. The most common of these were known as ell houses because of their footprint. Two nearly identical ell houses are located in the **North Hanson area (A)**, both have Federal period ornament, the distinctive semi-enclosed porch with Tuscan columns, and hip roofs, the **Thomas House** at **27 Spring Street (#37)** and the **Cobb House** at **15 West Washington Street (#60)**.

Hanson is unusual in having single story examples of houses with these ambitious plans. An unusual one-story double house is the **Perry House** at **610 East Washington Street (# 29)**. With chimneys on the front pile of the side walls, the house has a deep rear ell and carriage house, as well as a Federal transom doorway. A similar house is the **Perry House** at **510 Brook Street (# 32)**, positioning its chimneys at each end of its ridge, and

adding a rear ell and a Federal doorway. The **Bonney House** at **374 High Street (#95)** on **Bonney Hill (area C)** may be another example which has lost its second chimney. The **Thomas House** at **324 Holmes Street (# 324)**, said to have been built in the 1770s but currently treated with a Federal entry, appears to be an example of the unusual single-story ell house. The front block is of single pile configuration, with a high two story ell in the rear.



## **Hanson: Farming and Small-scaled Manufacturing, 1820 to 1905.**

After two decades of sporadic petitioning for independence, Hanson became an independent town in 1820. Other area towns incorporated at about the same time include western neighbors North Bridgewater (now Brockton) in 1821, West Bridgewater in 1822, and East Bridgewater in 1823, demonstrating the second wave of growth in the region. Population growth was slow and steady, increasing by about one hundred individuals in each decade, from 917 in 1820 to 1030 in 1830, and to 1210 in 1850. Later in the century, population growth slows, reaching a total of 1195 in 1865, 1265 in 1875, 1380 in 1895, and 1490 in 1905. The State census of 1865 provides a useful snapshot of population statistics for the town. Its 1195 inhabitants were found in 294 families, indicating an average family size of four individuals. Twenty-two fewer houses were counted in town, suggesting a small amount of multi-family occupancy. The town's ratable poles and legal voters counted 346 and 329 individuals, respectively, and only six voters were naturalized citizens. Two occupations dominated the town, farming employing 110, and shoemaking, employing 180. The town was served by three churches and had eight schoolhouses.

Although there is little of the traditional village development that characterizes many Massachusetts communities at this time, settlement density along the town's roadways increases significantly during this period. As late as 1830, a map of the town notes no named villages or hamlets. By 1856, however, three are noted, including Hanson Center near the First Congregational Church, now High Street between Liberty and Holmes streets, North Hanson on Spring Street, and South Hanson along Main Street. By 1879 the town map identifies five villages, Hanson Center, North Hanson, North Hanson Depot, South Hanson, and South Hanson Depot, although Hanson Center is not accorded a close-up map.

Although the agricultural history of the town has not been well documented, this period saw the rise of several distinctive crops in Hanson. Cedar swamps continued to provide logs for the town's many lumber dealers, but the large amounts of wetland in the town began their shift to cranberry cultivation during this period. Southeastern Massachusetts and Cape Cod proved particularly well-suited to cranberry cultivation, with all four of the key items necessary for their survival: acidic peat soils, coarse sand, a constant water supply, and a long, frost-free growing season. Beginning early in the 19th century, cranberry farmers learned to transplant vines and prepare special bogs for their cultivation, increasing bog size and berry availability. Abandoned open pit mines, mill ponds, and logged-over cedar swamps all proved well-suited to the expanding industry, and all were plentiful in Hanson. Beginning with the efforts of Ephraim Albert Gorham, Hanson farmers converted low and wet areas to valuable cranberry bogs. Through much of this period, cranberry picking was a family affair, with all ages heading for the bogs to pick by hand in the fall. Cranberry or bog houses were constructed to house the cranberry screening and sorting, also done by hand at first. Packed into barrels, cranberries were

commonly sold to commission merchants and cranberry dealers and sold fresh in the market.

A second activity that Hanson took up as the 19th century progressed was poultry raising. In Massachusetts and throughout New England, poultry shifted away from its traditional role as an adjunct to mixed grain and animal husbandry, where it had served primarily to provide eggs and meat as food for the family, and extra eggs provided as a source of cash and credit. But as cheap feed became available with the railroad, and the nearby markets of expanding cities increased, the region became preeminent in the development of breeds and in the size of flocks and in the number of eggs produced. In addition to growing the variety Plymouth Rock, Plymouth County was known for its Peking ducks, grown for Boston's restaurant market. Town tax assessments attest to the number of poultrymen through the rise in the numbers of hen houses in the town.

Town residents continue to complement agricultural pursuits with home industries, including boot and shoe manufacture. The region's participation in shoe manufacturing is believed to have spread from centers in nearby Norfolk County and peaked at mid century. It was the town's largest source of employment and took place in small shoe shops in this era before centralized factory production. The numerous saw mills employed a number whose output included boxes for shoes and cranberries. John Foster's Lumber Yard in South Hanson was probably the largest operation of its type, while Joseph White's large livery operation on West Washington Street was another important source of local employment. A significant number of carpenters were noted, fifteen, but with the exception of tack making described below, no other employment engaged more than a handful in the town. Women's occupations reported for the town followed well-established gender lines, including milliners, bonnet makers, seamstresses, stitchers, matron in the almshouse, and clairvoyant physician.

Hanson and the surrounding area were heavily involved in the manufacture of tacks and nails, possibly because of the presence of iron in bogs. By 1829 Benjamin Hobart purchased the **Thomas Mill Site** property on Indian Head Brook at Wampatuck Pond and began to manufacture tacks, confirmed on the 1830 map indication of a "nail works" here. Under several owners this manufacture continued until the middle of the 19th century, in spite of fires that destroyed the mill in 1835 and again in 1859. Nathaniel Cushing owned the property briefly at mid century, followed by Perry and Phillips, who developed the Drinkwater and Indian Head River privileges, and later by Henry H. Brigham. Historic maps show a tack factory and grist mill here in 1856, and the property is labeled E. Phillips in 1879 and 1903, in that last year as a saw mill.

The mill on the Indian Head River also remained productive (see **State Street area A**). In 1828 it was sold to Thomas Hobart who, with John Sylvester, operated a grist mill and began the manufacture of tacks. 1853 saw purchase by E. Y. Perry and Company, consisting of Edward Y. Perry (1812-1899), Ezra Phillips (1810-1882), and Martin

Stetson; the latter departed as a result of the panic of 1856. Perry withdrew and Phillips' sons Calvin T. and Morrill A. joined the firm in 1874. By 1880, fifty hands operated seventy tack and nail machines, a rolling mill, and a machine shop with a sixty horsepower engine. The operation continued until at least 1903.

Other key mill sites are noted on the Smith Map of 1830 including: an iron works, grist and saw mill, and a mill pond at North Hanson on the Poor Meadow Brook near West Washington Street; the cotton and woolen mill on Drinkwater Brook at Winter Street; a nail works on Indian Head Brook at Brook Street; and a sawmill in the southeast corner of the town, location unclear at present. Twenty-six years later all of these sites remain in use, with few changes noted on the map of 1856 beyond the shift from nails to tack manufacture and the closing of the iron works in North Hanson. In 1879, only the Brook Street site had disappeared, with additional development at North Hanson with the construction of the White Carriage factory and a shoe shop. The town reported thirty tackmakers of various sorts, as well as molders (8), machinists and millwrights (5 each), and forge managers (4).

Plymouth County's first railroad, the Old Colony, was chartered in 1844, connecting the county seat north to Boston. The line cut diagonally across the south and west sections of Hanson, running to the northwest above the Great Cedar Swamp from the southeast corner of the town. Two stations were initially constructed in Hanson, at North Hanson Depot on West Washington Street and on Main Street in South Hanson. In 1880 the Monponsett Lake and Land Company built a station on the east side of Monponsett Street on the Halifax border in the southeast part of the town. The Bournetown depot was added east of Pleasant Street, between the South Hanson and Monponsett stops. Only the **South Hanson Depot** survives at **1120 South Main Street (#4)**, including what may be the original depot in its small gable-roofed portion, and the later depot of 1879 taking the traditional deep-eaved rectangular form and Italianate ornament.

During the third quarter of the 19th century, Hanson added significantly to the number of public buildings within it. Like most Massachusetts communities, the number of religious societies in this vicinity increased during this period. When their numbers and finances suggested a second and larger meetinghouse, Baptists formerly meeting in Bryantville built the **Baptist Church** at **214 Main Street (#8)** in 1820. The simple gabled nave has a small steeple on its front ridge and small amounts of Greek Revival ornament. After meeting informally for a time, the Universalists built a meetinghouse in 1829, but ceased to meet after a decade. It later served as a spiritualists meeting place and as one of the town's many meeting halls before it was torn down in 1876. The **First Congregational Church** built a new church at **641 High Street (#2)** in 1836. The nave-plan building has a central tower projecting slightly from its facade, an unusual form for the Greek Revival style.

Hanson had many district schools during the 19th century, and the town is unusual for the number of times its schools relocated. In 1830, the town's nominative maps shows eight district schools, in the south at Bournedale; on Main Street in South Hanson; on Holmes Street, known then as School Street; in North Hanson, on West Washington and further to the north on Whitman Street; in the north central part of the town on East Washington Street; on State Street; and near the center of town on Liberty Street. Twenty-six years later there remained eight schools, but several had been relocated to other sites, adding a school on Elm Street and merging the two Washington Street schools into one location. With the abolition of the district school system, the number of schools dropped to four, including two along Main Street serving the southern part of town and one on North Street near State Street and one on East Washington Street to serve the north. A surviving example from this area is **Schoolhouse # 4 at 565 Main Street (#6)**, a Greek Revival end gabled structure with paired entries now serving the Hanson Historical Society.

Beginning with the construction of the Town Hall in 1872, the town's other clustered areas added meeting places as well. The **Hanson Town Hall at 542 Liberty Street (# 1)** is an Italianate hip-roofed block with a facade gable, bracketed cornice, labels at the windows, and an entry porch. In South Hanson, **Wampatuck Hall** was built at **1131 Main Street (#3)** in 1893. It resembles the Town Hall in form and ornament, a hip-roofed block with a central facade gable over the entry, a shingled skirt between the first and second floor, and a turned porch at the entry. Other meeting halls in the town include Oakland on State Street, Soper's in North Hanson, Josselyn in Bryantville, the Grand Army of the Republic Hall on High Street, and Thomas Hall, location unknown.

In 1847, the **Fern Hill Cemetery** Corporation was established, to expand and manage the yard on **High Street (#800)**. A lot of over four acres was purchased joining the old yard to the High Street frontage. In 1899 the Hanson Improvement Society proposed the construction of the new and ambitious granite gate. A stone monument to Hanson's participants in the Civil War was constructed here in 1905 but moved to the lawn of Town Hall in 1936. The cemetery was expanded with five gifts of land: an acre on High Street to the south in 1860, over two acres to the east of that land in 1879, over an acre further to the east in 1905, nearly an acre on the north side on High Street in 1912, and the large rear rectangle of over six acres in 1963. The flat front section includes both 19th century granite and marble stones and modern granite stones, most comparatively small, and taller obelisque style monuments as well.

Although population growth was slow, the likely replacement of earlier houses contributed to a building boom which characterized the middle of the 19th century in Hanson. The small gable-roofed house remained the most common in Hanson well into the 19th century. With its posts and studs raised, these houses added a half story to their height. And as the stove came to replace the fireplace as the primary heating source in the

middle of the 19th century, large chimney stacks gave way to small stove flues allowing more flexible planning and design. Two examples follow the general New England form. The first of these, the **House House at 232 King Street (#27)** of 1848, appears to retain a small central chimney, and adds an original low wing and more recent gabled dormers. Its ornament includes the entablature treatment of entry and cornice so popular at mid-century. An example with a recessed porch or umbrage supported by square paneled posts under a Doric entablature is the **Lincoln House** located at **971 Whitman Street (#24)**. In addition to its rich Greek ornament, the house is expanded with several shed-roofed dormers and a central lower rear ell and a still lower one perpendicular to it. The town also includes a significant number oriented with their long entry elevation perpendicular to the street, presenting their gable end to the street instead. These examples often include the addition of a low perpendicular wing. The **Poole House at 75 Spring Street (#42)** in **North Hanson (area A)** is a well preserved example with Greek entablatures and a wing connecting to a carriage house. Another example can be seen on **Bonney Hill (area C)** at the **Stetson House at 303 High Street (#89)**.

A distinctive trait in Hanson is the use of a recessed two or three bay section of one corner of the facade, forming a narrow porch recessed under the roof line and supported by columns. Among the best preserved of these houses is the **Sprague House at 693 State Street (# 67, State Street area B)**, said to date to 1851. The facade has a center entry flanked by a pair of sash to the left and a single window centered to the right; the entry and the right window are in the umbrage or recessed porch, supported by square paneled posts resembling simple Greek Doric columns. The gable end facing State Street is lit with two windows in the first floor and two centered in the gable above. The trim of the house is a robust Greek Revival, employing a deep entablature at the eaves as well as wrapping around the gable end. Both the windows and the doors have broad and low pediments over them. A long low two-part ell extends from the rear of the main block, off set behind the facade plane and extending the rear plane in its forward half but projecting past it toward the rear. The **White House at 395 State Street (#30)**, believed to date to the 1840s, is another well-preserved example of this variation, with a connected single level carriage house/garage. Another example of this type is the **Clark House at 48 Spring Street (#39)** in **North Hanson (area A)**.

Although most common in the Greek Revival style, an array of later 19th century styles were applied to this general form. Gothic houses commonly are found in this form, including the **Wales House at 4 West Washington Street (# North Hanson area A)** and at the **Bearce House at 184 Main Street (#142, Bryantville East Main Street area H)**, both of which appear to have begun as capes and to have had fashionable mid-19th-century remodelings. At the Bearce House a pair of large, steeply-pitched facade gables lend a Gothic appearance while a large rear ell adds significant space. Italianate examples with gable roofs are rare. Here builders favor mansard-roofs for Italianate gabled blocks. The **Bowker House at 63 East Washington Street (# 25)** is

among the most ambitious of this style and form in Hanson, including the two-story main block, its wing, and attached carriage house, all richly decorated with Italianate elements. Several examples are clustered together on **Main Street in South Hanson (area G, #s )**, the **Calder Houses**, including **819, 829, and 837**. These mansard-roofed houses have mansard wings and one has a mansard carriage house.

Certainly the most popular New England house type of the 19th century was the end house. Dating to the second quarter of the century, the rise of this house type is associated with the change in the outward appearance of houses with the reorientation of the house to the street to produce the gable-fronted house. While retaining the rectangular gable-roofed block, the massing was significantly altered by turning the building ninety degrees, changing the roof ridge from parallel to perpendicular to the front wall so that the facade became the tall and flat gable end. It became common to employ a narrow three-bay facade with a side entry, adding further to the alteration of the model house form with the adoption of the side-hall plan. While in many communities small Greek Revival examples are numerous, the popularity of the various gable-block forms here in Hanson apparently postponed the adoption of the end house, and only a small number survive in this style. The **Baptist Parsonage at 77 Pleasant Street (#17)** takes a form that suggests its relationship to the contemporary gabled blocks. Also rising to a story and a half through the use of high posts, the footprint and roof pitch of this house resemble the more common Hanson form rather than the general form of end houses, with a wider gable end elevation and a lower and wider roof, each accented by the entablature running across that elevation. The house includes the common entablature entry treatment and a low perpendicular wing at the rear of the main block connecting it to the carriage house. The **Bowker House**, built between 1830 and 1856, at **37 Brook Street (#34)** is a well-preserved example which employs both the stylistic hallmark of the entablature door and the regional hallmark of the low rear wing. A plainer example is the **Damon House at 230 Main Street (#146)** in the **Bryantville, East Main Street area (H)**. The **Howland House at 321 State Street (#31)** is unusual for its combination of end house form with the use of a recessed side porch. The facade is almost four rather than three bays in width, with the recess occupying the left corner to a depth of the front pile, and the entry occupying the next inner bay. That entry employs a molded surround with corner blocks and full sidelights. A **North Hanson (area A)** example is the **Cox House at 232 Spring Street (#55)**, with an entablature entry treatment. A **Bonney Hill (area C)** example is the **Keene House at 111 High Street (#172)**, which adds a small wing.

It was in the Italianate style that end houses first became common in Hanson. These were occasionally elaborated with the addition of projecting bays on the facade and lateral walls or through the addition of a wing extending from its long, lateral wall. The exuberant ornament of the **Josselyn House at 830 Main Street #126)** in the **South Hanson, Main Street area (G)** reflects the occupation of its owner, builder Benjamin Josselyn. Bay windows, wall dormers, and verge boards all enrich the house, its

connecting wing, and carriage house. The **Thomas House** at **848 Main Street (#129)** nearby was built by Josselyn a few years later, employing a similar extensive form but with more common Italianate ornament. The **Sprague House** at **90 Spring Street (# )** in the **North Hanson area (A)** is among the town's best preserved examples, with a console entry and a rear ell and carriage house richly trimmed to match the house. Two houses, nearly mirror images of one another in the **State Street area (B)**, at **666 and 674 State Street (#s 63-65)**, are examples dated by White to 1872 and 1869 respectively. Their mirror facades have entries in the bays nearest to one another, the ells along the inner walls, and the wings extending toward one another. In the rear yard centered between them is a two-level carriage house. A larger two-and-a-half story version is the **Whiting House** at **651 State Street (# )**, said by White to date to 1872. Although taller than the above-described pair, it is quite similar, including a three-bay rear wing extending from the left rear corner, screened here with a turned-post porch and a similar carriage house. A group of simpler Italianate end houses are also found in the **South Hanson, Main Street area (G)**, including **799, 822, 847, and 859**, all including the small perpendicular wing, and the house at **881 Main Street**, built with no wing. Simple Bonney Hill examples include the **Stetson House** at **300 High Street (#88)** and the **Cobb House** at **481 High Street (#102)**.

The end houses built late in the century may be termed generally Queen Anne in ornament and the type could sustain a broad range in the amount of that ornament. The simplest examples maintained the simple block and decorated edges of the first half of the century. The **Bates House** at **706 State Street (# 69, State Street area B)** is a small Queen Anne example which White dates to 1888. The house has a small console-supported hood at the entry, a pair of narrow sash in the gable, and labels at all the windows. On the left rear, a projecting bay with a matching pair of narrow sash adds space for two full rear pile rooms, further augmented on the right rear with a square bay window. The **Ramsdell House** in North Hanson at **168 Spring Street (#48)** has a rectangular bay on its front corner as well as other projecting elements. In **Bryantville (area H)**, examples of this type include **195 Main Street** and on **Bonney Hill (area C)** at **125, 191 and 201 High Street (#s 73, 81, 82)**.

As the planning and construction modes shifted toward more complex massing, the basic box was modified through the addition of bay windows, dormers, projecting bays, and porches. Five examples survive in the **Bryantville, East Main Street (H)** at **142, 158, 169, 209, and 217 Main Street**. The **Howard Houses** at **158 and 169 Main Street** are mirror images of each other. Both have gabled one-and-a-half story wings with full width front porches on the wings. Additional massing elements include shed-roofed wall dormers on both side elevations at the second pile. The **Hobart House** at **142 Main Street** is the most complexly massed of the three in Bryantville. In addition to the wing, the house has polygonal bay windows at the second bay of the facade and at the front pile

of the left elevation. Small plain examples with scrolled hoods and a narrow wings are located at **135, 142, 176, 202, 223, and 379 High Street on Bonney Hill (area C)**. Other examples with small wings or lateral projecting bays are found in the **State Street area (B)** at **669**, in **North Hanson (area A)** at **91 and 226 Spring Street**.



## Twentieth Century Changes, 1905- 1960.

Albert Burrage, Marcus Urann, and the trolley line all brought change to Hanson at the turn of the century. At South Hanson, the establishment of the cranberry canning plant in 1912 revolutionized the cranberry market and added employment in that village. Closer ties to regional cities, with trolley connections, improved employment opportunities and brought seasonal visitors to the town in increasing numbers. The town was chosen as the site for the Plymouth County Hospital in 1919, building a complex on High Street. Pond-side development for summer visitors began during this period. Although the proportion of foreign-born in the population remained small, the gradual influx of Canadians, Italians, and Portuguese brought the establishment of a Roman Catholic Church, St. Joseph the Worker, in 1939. The town's greatest population growth dates to the early 20th century when it surpasses 2000 for the first time.

The greatest change in the region's agriculture came with the continuing growth of the cranberry industry. Plymouth County dominated the state's output, with 48% of the crop in 1905 and 61% of it in 1915. At the turn of the century, the cranberry industry was entering a period of rapid change, when labor, equipment, and sales were all being transformed from the small-scale family-based agricultural pursuit of the 19th century. Like many farming tasks, the steps of cranberry picking and preparation for sale were mechanized for the first time. The invention of the cranberry scoop was particularly important, as several competing scoops allowed for faster picking. An array of cleaning and sorting tools speeded that part of the process as well in the now centralized packing plants. Finnish and Cape Verdean pickers were added to the labor pool, replacing children and some New England workers, as bogs increased in number and in size. At the same time, the marketing of cranberries was changing, as commission merchants and dealers were replaced by growers' cooperative marketing groups. The most successful of these, the National Fruit Exchange, worked to maintain prices and control sales to benefit the growers, while using careful grading and branding to gain consumer confidence and keep berry quality high.

The construction of Albert Burrage's factories and housing served that company only briefly, but contributed a significant new settlement cluster in the south of the town. Formerly known as Bournetown, the area was transformed in 1906 and 1907 to accommodate a manufacturing complex and housing for its employees. Several distinct enterprises were located here, for the manufacture of tin foil, of cedar boxes, and of porcelain components for appliances, as well as a cranberry screen house. The buildings which housed these last two are no longer extant, but that of the first two, Eastern Tinfoil and the probable box factory, are now occupied by Litecontrol in the **Burrage Industrial area (J) at 97 Hawkes Avenue**. The Burrage-era buildings are the large, cement-block structures in a V-shaped configuration at the center of the greatly expanded complex. To the north side of the railroad tracks, Burrage built a village, with housing, a hotel, and a post office near the railroad depot he also added. Most of the housing, located along

**Pleasant and Reed streets**, consisted of nineteen small Queen Anne end houses described in the **Burrage area form (I)**. Burrage end houses that employed a shed-roofed projecting bay on the rear of the left lateral wall and a wrap-around front porches include **251, 259, 267, 275, 283, 293, 315, 323, 329 Reed Street**. Other examples nearby added simple dormers in the same position, including houses at **294, 288, 300, 312, 318, 355, and 367 Reed Street**. Other housing located further north off Pleasant Street, takes a gambrel-roofed form but has been significantly altered.

Even before he built his village, Burrage had constructed a summer home in Hanson on Maquan Pond between Indian Head Street on the west and Maquan Street on the northeast, known as **the Needles**, (see **Camp Kiwanee area E**) and completed before 1903. In 1907, a massive fire burned down the main house and the nearby stable, though the gate house or lodge is believed to have survived. A new house (#111) was constructed immediately and the stable was replaced by a building sources describe as a firehouse, built to allay family fears of another devastating fire. The house is a large low shingled building with a L-shaped footprint. The wide gable-roofed structure has a wrap-around porch supported by rustic trunk supports, with an octagonal pavilion at the water-side corner. Both the lodge (#112) and the fire house/garage (#113) are constructed of rough-faced concrete block, with rectangular footprints. The lodge is located near Maquan Street and the main house is located at the turn-around at the end of the concrete access road, near the fire house/garage.

When his business interests in Hanson failed, Burrage sold the property to the Greater Boston Camp Fire Girls for use as a camp, who purchased it with \$24,000 supplied by Kiwanis International, giving rise to the camp's first name; it was later changed to **Camp Kiwanee (area E)**. Until 1936, these three buildings were the only one's enumerated on the property, but thereafter the camp was significantly expanded with a range of buildings. Six large cabins were constructed near to the main house, stretched along the ridge overlooking the pond and on the opposite side of the road, where the fire house/garage is also located, all of similar form and construction, with entries usually in the center of the long wall and rough-edged board siding. Two camp clusters, each including a group of small cabins and several support structures, are located to the northeast and to the south of the main grouping. The cabins employ rough-edged board siding and drop siding. Each cluster has a concrete block gable-roofed bathhouse. The northern cluster has a log cabin and a "chalet," large versions of the cabins that retain their open screen sides. Two chalets survive at the southern cluster which also has a pavilion heated with a field stone fireplace. At the water side, the boathouse is a long gable-roofed structure with four garage doors.

The town had a reputation for a salubrious environment, because of its rural atmosphere and, for southeastern Massachusetts, its high elevation. Summer residents came to the town's ponds, clustering in particular on the Pembroke border at Bryantville

and to the south in Monponsett. This also led Plymouth County's commissioners to choose Bonney Hill in Hanson for the **Plymouth State Hospital, on High Street**. On a large lot near the top of the hill, a campus of uniform design by J. Williams Beal, was constructed for the reception of TB patients. The complex included an administration building, hospital wards, housing for medical staff, and support buildings of various sorts. Rare in New England was Beal's choice of style for the group, a generalized Mediterranean form and ornament, employing pale stucco exteriors and tile roofs.

A second entrepreneur who brought significant change to Hanson was Marcus L. Urann (1873-1963), a cranberry grower who revolutionized the industry throughout the United States by advocating the canning of cranberries and the formation of the Ocean Spray co-operative. Unlike most men and women of the Massachusetts' cranberry industry, Urann came to the business as a marketer rather than as a grower. Urann was a strong supporter of the Exchange and of New England Cranberry Sales, its New England sales agency, serving as a founder and leader in each organization. He formed the United Cape Cod Cranberry Company in 1906 and soon thereafter established a centralized plant for screening, grading, sorting, packing, and shipping cranberries, all processes that formerly took place in small frame bog houses at each cranberry bog. United Cape Cod Cranberry grew very rapidly, and within three years his stock had a value of half a million dollars and he was one of the region's largest growers.

Urann was important in the shift of the cranberry industry to centralized sorting and packing operations, but perhaps his most important role was in the shift of cranberry crop sales from fresh berries to canned sauce and juice cocktail. As early as 1912, Urann began canning under the Ocean Spray label at his South Hanson plant, providing a profitable use for berries that did not meet the standards for fresh sales and shrewdly recognizing the future for convenience foods. In 1930, Urann was the primary force behind an effort to merge three of the largest cranberry canners, himself, A.D. Makepeace of Barnstable, and Elizabeth Lee of New Jersey. Since they would then control 90% of the canned cranberry market, Urann's legal advisors recommended that the group organize as a growers' marketing cooperative exempt from key anti-trust laws. Negotiations for this merger were difficult, because Makepeace, like other cranberry growers before and after him were wary of Urann's motives. The final agreement meant that Urann turned over his very large canning operation and its Ocean Spray name to the new organization, in return for 50% ownership; Makepeace received 25% and the remaining 25% was controlled by Lee and other small growers. The organization was first known as Cranberry Canners, Inc., next as National Cranberry, and finally as Ocean Spray.

The early years of the organization were not smooth ones, with stiff competition between Cranberry Canners and the old National Exchange, and volatile relations between Urann and Makepeace. Although the Exchange retained control of fresh berry sales, the need of the canning cooperative for berries brought the two organizations into competition, with Urann constantly pressing for higher proportions of the crop to be

designated for canning. Tensions were exacerbated after World War Two when all of the major players were competing for berries for both fresh and canned sales, and growers were caught between their multiple buyers. After many complex reorganizations of the ownership of these major and several shot-lived minor operations, Ocean Spray eventually absorbed most of its competitors and the cranberry crop was shifted to canning operations. With that triumph in 1953, Marcus L. Urann retired.

The **United Cape Cod Cranberry Company's Central Packing House**, on **South Main Street (area F)**, is perhaps the most durable monument to him, a large, low complex of buildings, probably the largest in Hanson and dominating the landscape in the village of South Hanson. The complex is divided into three sections, all along the corridor formed by South Main Street and the Old Colony Railroad line. The core and original section of the plant is the central brick section of the irregular 600 foot building (#118). On the opposite side of the railroad track a long, more regular rectangle stretches 750 feet (#119). A third far smaller building is located across South Main Street at the corner of Foster Street (#120). The buildings have grown slowly over the 20th century and have recently received alterations including the application of synthetic siding over their frame and brick walls. The South Hanson operation of Ocean Spray was recently closed and the complex turned over to office space and small manufacturing.

A round of school building accompanied the early 20th century population growth. The **South Grammer School**, later the Grange, at **782 Main Street (#5)**, replaced a previous school on that site. Built by C. Gilman Whitney in 1907, the hip-block building is ornamented with Tudor elements. At **195 East Washington Street (#12)** a new **Washington Street School** was constructed in 1924 to replace a building constructed there in the middle of the previous century. Built by J. D. Leland & Co., the small T-plan building is a single story on a raised basement, employing a Tuscan portico and a cupola to achieve a Georgian Revival effect. Quite similar is the **L.Z. Thomas School** at **533 Main Street (#7)** built four years later also by Leland; here the entry has a enclosed, gabled porch with a broken pediment at the door. The oldest part of the **Indian Head School** at **726 Indian Head Street (#9)** is a large Georgian Revival building, completed in 1951, with an attached gabled, temple-front auditorium. The low-level sprawling complex also includes a one-story brick block on the north side added in 1960, and a second one-story brick block added to the east of the original classroom building in 1980. A new church added in the town, the first since the rebuilding of the First Congregational a hundred years earlier, was **Saint Joseph the Worker**, **25 Maquan Street (#11)**, built in 1939 to serve an expanding Roman Catholic population. The simple frame but now sided, classically-ornamented building was designed by Robert Lloyd of Arlington.

Residential building continued at a significant rate early in the 20th century, and the Queen Anne end houses were constructed well into the first if not the second decade of the 20th century. A number of these are found in the **Bonney Hill area (C)**, often

treated with deep eaves and shed-roofed wall dormers, as seen at the **Mathews House** of 1908 at **125 High Street (#73)** and with hooded entry and patterned shingles at the **MacDonald House** of 1911 at **201 High Street (#82)**. The **Josselyn House** at **858 Main Street** in the **South Hanson, Main Street area (G, #130)** was designed with a deep front porch and bay window on the facade and a projecting gabled bay in the rear pile with canted corners on its first floor. A slightly larger example is the **Smith House** at **669 State Street (#64)** in the **State Street area (B)** which White dates to 1907. Here a full turned-spindle porch covers the facade and wraps around to the projecting side bay, which has its own entry on the front-facing wall and a polygonal bay window is added on the front wall. Its neighbor at **706 State Street (#69)** was simpler with a single projecting bay and a console entry treatment. The form could even be altered to suit Colonial Revival needs, as seen in the **Knight House** at **660 State Street (#62)**, dated by White to 1929. Topped by a gambrel roof, the long walls have shed dormers and the facade is screened by a Tuscan-columned porch. Large windows with many small lights are a distinctive feature of the house.

The Queen Anne cottage form can be seen on **Bonney Hill (area C)** at the 1906 **Estes House** at **458 High Street**, with a high gabled main block augmented with an overhanging porch roof and a projecting bay on the facade. A simpler gabled block Queen Anne is the **Thomas House** at **437 High Street (#99)**, while the **Langhill House** at the corner of **High and Peirce streets (#71)** takes the more complex bent house form, here placing its entry in the re-entrant angle between the two gabled wings. The **Blount House** at **139 Main Street** is another example, whose ornament reflects classical elements of the style, employing Tuscan columns on the porch in combination with complex massing, shingled walls, and ornamental brackets. A related form but with distinctive ornament can be seen in the gambrel-roofed **Brown House** of 1906 at **72 Spring Street (#41)** in **North Hanson (area A)**, with a front cross gambrel section and overhanging porch roof.

The next wave of change to enter the region came with a second reorganization of the building trades and the rise of mail-order house plans and indeed mail-order houses. This national trend made itself felt in the region at the turn of the century with the introduction of a group of distinctive housetypes. The two earliest of these are associated with the movement to simplify and rationalize the home and housekeeping; the small house we know as the bungalow and the larger as the foursquare. The appeal of the bungalow was national and indeed international, associating an attractive way of life with a house best known for its small size. The bungalow was limited to a single story or single story with a low dormer-lit attic story. The facade is dominated by the broad porch usually formed as an extension of the roof line. Plans are traditionally deep and linear, but in Hanson more commonly square or rectangular and broad-side to the street. A trio of examples were constructed in the **Bonney Hill area (C)**, several built by the builder Clinton E. Calder. The house he built for himself at **150 High Street (#76)** is a gabled

block with a recessed porch screening the entire facade, sitting on an ornamental concrete block foundation, and is treated with Craftsman style ornament. Another **Calder House**, at **160 High Street (#77)**, is a simpler house with more Colonial Revival decorative treatment, including a Tuscan-columned porch at the entry of the gable block with deep rear ell. The wider gabled block **Stiles House** at **392 High Street (#97)** employs wide banks of windows and enclosed porches in its simple design. **North Hanson area (area A)** examples include the **Ramsdell House** at **221 Spring Street (#53)**, with a front porch which extends from the roof line, the **Boutiette House** at **249 Spring Street (#58)**, with deep eaves and a central recessed entry porch, and the simple four-bay **Butler House** at **196 Spring Street**. The **Gorham House** at **153 East Main Street (#13)** in the **Bryantville, East Main Street area (H)** is another example of a low gabled block, this time augmented by a large offset gable..

The foursquare by contrast is two stories in height and square in shape under a hip or pyramidal roof, and is also often expanded through the use of a dormer to light the attic. These four-room plans include a large stair/entry area, a living room, dining room, and kitchen. Complex example can be seen in the **North Hanson area (A)**, at the **Ford House** at **134 Spring Street (#46)** with multiple projecting bays and an unusual concave hooded entry, and the **House House** at **177 Spring Street (#49)**, with multiple paired Tuscan-columned porches and bay windows. The houses at **239 Spring Street (#56)** and **871 Main Street (#132, South Hanson, Main Street area G)** are a relatively simple examples, the former with a three bay facade screened by an open Tuscan porch and the later with two broad bays across the facade, now screened with a front porch. The **Beal House** at **183 East Main Street (#141)**, in the **Bryantville, East Main Street area (H)** shares many characteristics of a four square but its exceptionally broad facade and fenestration suggest a central hall plan.

Later interest in historical revivals, and in New England the preference for local, Colonial models, brought a return to the edicts of symmetry and construction of some of the most familiar house types. The modern Cape shares with its ancestor small size and single story, seen in **North Hanson (area A)** and **Bonney Hill (area C)**. The two story Colonial echoes the gable block with revival entry treatment, seen with a hipped roof and a variety of revival-style glazing patterns at the **Faux House** at **357 High Street (#94)**. The sub-type Dutch Colonial masks the second story behind a false gambrel roof, which was consistently built in Hanson in the large five-bay version. Examples with single wings include the **Boulanger House** at **335 (#92)** and the **Littlehale House** at **345 High Street (#93)**. A related example is the **Scates House** at **321 High Street (#90)**, where a gable rather than a gambrel profile is augmented with the false shed dormer. A large example is the **Clark House** with two flanking wings at **876 Main Street (#133, South Hanson, Main Street area G)**. Simpler gambrel blocks were also constructed at this time, including the three-bay house at **161 Main Street** in the **Bryantville, East Main Street area (#139, H)** with a projecting gabled dormer and a Tuscan porch providing emphasis

at the entry.. Builders only occasionally employed the various Tudor elements, but the **MacDonald House at 417 High Street (#98, C)** is among the simplest of houses to be designated by this name, relying almost exclusively on an asymmetrical entry porch for its style designation.

Intensifying suburban development has had its effect on Hanson, although at present that change has been in the alteration of many buildings rather than large-scale demolition. At some distance from the region's more popular commuter highways the town was spared early large-scale development and that which has occurred more recently has remained isolated and small-scaled. Particular areas of development include the quadrant bordered by Brook, Winter, Maquan streets and the Pembroke border, and smaller sections in the north of the town, west and north of Whitman Street and north of East Washington Street. At the same time, however, individual properties and some sections of the town have been subject to alteration. Several town roads have been expanded to accommodate the increased travel on them, notably the corridor formed by Whitman, Spring, Liberty and Maquan streets and along Indian Head and Monponsett streets. Properties along these streets have been subject to greater alteration than others in the town, and in particular when compared to those included in this year's survey. As the town's agricultural landscape is altered with development and as suburban subdivisions increase, the Hanson Historical Commission should continue to record their historic resources and plan to recognize and protect them.

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